bridge over the Hooghly river near the existing bridge on Bandel Naihati Section;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the project; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is in planning stage.

(c) Priority of work depends on urgency compared to other proposals within the limited resources.

Arrangement for Cold Drinking Water for Train passengers

*416. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the railway stations do not have adequate and satisfactory arrangefor cold drinking water for passengers;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ease the situation, particularly in the summer season;

(c) whether cold drinking water is made available in all classes of sleeper coachess; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) A railway station is considered for provision of water cooler if electricity and piped water supply are available and atleast 1000 or more passengers per day detrain/entrain at the station. Out of 1453 stations eligible for provision of water coolers as per the above norms, 1272 stations have already been provided with water coolers. 108 more stations have been selected for provision of water cooler during the year 1992-93. The balance eligible stations to be covered in subsequent years are subject to availability of the funds.

(c) and (d) A few selected trains were provided with split unit type mechanical water coolers as an experimental measure. As the fitment of these type of water coolers on coaches was done for the first time, a number of teething problems in regard to maintenance and their operation have been experienced. The service trials are still continuing.

Deepening of Visakhapatnam Port

*417. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for deepening of the Visakhapatnam Port to receive vessels of 1,70,000 DWT capacity for exporting iron ore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Express Buses to State Capitals

*418. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to run express buses to various State Capitals;

(b) if so, by when the same is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?